

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A discharge lamp comprising:

5 a luminous bulb in which a luminous material is enclosed and a pair of electrodes are opposed to each other in the luminous bulb; and

a pair of sealing portions for sealing a pair of metal foils electrically connected to the pair of electrodes, respectively;

10 wherein the pair of metal foils have a pair of external leads on a side opposite to a side electrically connected to the pair of electrodes, respectively,

15 at least one of the pair of external leads is joined to a lead wire for external connection that is to be electrically connected to an external circuit by plastic flow of a caulking member.

2. The discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein the caulking member has a cylindrical shape.

20 3. The discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein each of the pair of external leads is formed of molybdenum, and the caulking member is formed of a softer material than the molybdenum constituting the external leads.

25 4. The discharge lamp of claim 3, wherein the caulking member is formed of a material having excellent oxidation

resistance properties.

5. A discharge lamp comprising:

a luminous bulb in which a luminous material is enclosed and a pair of electrodes are opposed to each other in the luminous bulb; and

a pair of sealing portions for sealing a pair of metal foils electrically connected to the pair of electrodes, respectively;

wherein the pair of metal foils have a pair of external leads on a side opposite to a side electrically connected to the pair of electrodes, respectively, and

at least one of the external leads and a lead wire for external connection that is to be electrically connected to an external circuit are integrally formed.

6. A lamp unit comprising the discharge lamp of claim 1 or 5, and a reflecting mirror for reflecting light emitted from the discharge lamp.

7. A method for producing a lamp unit comprising the steps of:

preparing a discharge lamp provided with a pair of external leads, a lead wire for external connection that is to be electrically connected to an external circuit, and a reflecting mirror having an opening for a lead wire for passing the lead wire for external connection through and a

front opening positioned forward in an emission direction;

joining one of the pair of external leads and the lead wire for external connection;

inserting the discharge lamp into the reflecting mirror  
5 from the front opening of the reflecting mirror;

drawing out the lead wire for external connection  
jointed to the external lead from an inside of the reflecting mirror to an outside of the reflecting mirror through the opening for a lead wire of the reflecting mirror; and

fixing the discharge lamp to the reflecting mirror.

8. A method for producing a lamp unit comprising the steps of:

preparing a discharge lamp provided with a pair of  
15 external leads, a lead wire for external connection that is to be electrically connected to an external circuit, and a reflecting mirror having an opening for a lead wire for passing the lead wire for external connection through and a front opening positioned forward in an emission direction;

20 passing the lead wire for external connection through the opening for lead wire of the reflecting mirror;

inserting the discharge lamp into the reflecting mirror from the front opening of the reflecting mirror;

joining one of the pair of external leads and the lead  
25 wire for external connection passing through the opening for a lead wire; and

fixing the discharge lamp to the reflecting mirror.

9. The method for producing a lamp unit of claim 7 or 8,  
further comprising the step of attaching a front glass to the  
front opening of the reflecting mirror, after fixing the  
5 discharge lamp to the reflecting mirror.

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10. The method for producing a lamp unit of claim 7 or 8,  
wherein the joining step is performed by caulking the one of  
the pair of external leads and the lead wire for external  
10 connection.

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